



Wednesday 2nd September

This morning, a small team of dedicated volunteers scarified the areas of meadow that had recently been scythed and cut with the mower. Quite a bit of grass debris 'thatch' was removed, which exposed a good number of small patches of bare soil. The area was then sowed with a wildflower seed mix. This extended to a small area to the west of the hawthorn tree, where a few patches we scarified there too. The wildflowers included field scabious, corncockle, musk mallow and ox-eye daisy. The bulk of the seed mix was our old friend yellow rattle, which is semi-parasitic on grass, and is therefore very useful in suppressing vigorous grass growth, which in turn allows the more delicate wildflowers to flourish. All seeds were kindly donated by volunteers.

As we had quite a bit of seed, we were able to sow it quite thickly, and we believe it has turned out to be the best and most productive attempt we'll have had at trying to add a more diverse mix of wildflowers into our meadow area. We can now look forward to our efforts producing masses of colourful flowers next spring and summer.

In the afternoon, a further team painted the shed with a preservative. We got the job completed (partly in the rain) and it now looks as good as new in a delicate shade of chocolate brown!